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The Living Sacrifice

Wyatt Sawyer

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HARDING
U N I V E R S I T Y

How many of US live say → I Cor. 11:1? The Living Sacrifice said by same writer of: 873

Int. Study: America lives a gripping story of a successful Christian man. Mission accomplished

N.T. does not record the end of the life of any other apostle. Reason to record this one. Some

Believe: because of so many encouraging lessons in this; one of the most successful lives ever lived. I Cor. 11:1.

I His obedience to the Gospel sealed his eventual death for Jesus.

A. Acts 9 & 22. Esp. 9:15: Suffer much.

B. Paid total price to be a Christian. Phil. 3:7-8*

C. Ready for death long before it came. 1:21-26*

II His Last Words Full of Faith, Hope and Joy. Great to be a Christian! Not sorry for one second!

A. READY: acts 28:22.

1. Rome was trying to exterminate this WAY most spoken against. Cruel + heartless.

2. The real value of faith in Jesus was being sorely tried. Rev. 2:10. Worth it?

3. Paul as ready to die as Rome was ready to take his life. Phil. 4:11 + 13.

See. Christians often sing # 394. Ready to suffer! mean it too!

B. OFFERED:

1. Situation: Christian leaders could make a greater contribution in death than possibly make in life. Example of true faith. Matt. 16:24-26.

2. Truth about Jesus more imp. than an apostle's life. Acts 4:12. John 14:6.

I. Righteous Judge.

- His:
1. Last Judgment of earth ^{Bloody} ~~unrighteous~~ ^{persec.} ~~illegal, immoral + uncalled for.~~
 2. Judgment of his Lord fair, factual, forever + final.
Heb. 4:15. 5:8-9. Lk. 6:46. Matt. 7:21-23.

5. Me.

1. Religion is never relevant until it gets personal. Ps. 23:1.
M. of Shepherd, Leadeth me. ^{Leadeth my} ^{My soul.} ^{Cup.}
"shall give me — " ^{Lead me through} ^{valley of shadow —}

K. All (who love His appearing.)

1. Gospel is for all. John 3:16. Mk. 16:15/16.
2. all who obey are saved. Acts 2:38.
3. all who ignore it, refuse it or rebel against it lost. II Thess. 1:7-9.
4. all Righteous anxiously await His coming. ^{Matt. 25:21.}
5. all Unrighteous dread it. Rev. 20:12, 15.

Inv. How do you look at the Lord's Coming?

1. Can enjoy the hope of His coming now, ^{by being a Christian!}
2. Will love Him + His appearing ^{Because} Ready! ^{if a} Christian. ^{Come!}

- 3-12-72
1. Athletes' Oath at Greek Olympic Games. (3)
- a. Trained at least 10 months.
 - b. Not resort to trickery or foul play.
 - c. ^{Ill. Jim Ryan - Russian Tactics.} Keep all the rules of honor.

2. Christian's Oath is in His Primary Obed.

- I will:
1. Believe Jesus is Son of God. Acts 16:31.
 2. Repent of past sin & promise to live by the rules of God. II Tim. 2:15.
 3. Live my Confession daily. Rom. 10:9-10.
 4. Obey in Baptism and all other wishes of my Lord. Acts 22:16, I Cor. 15:58.
- ^{acts 2:42.}

3. I Promise to Be Faithful regardless of the cost. II Cor. 11:23-28. * Death easier!

G. ~~LAID~~ LAID:

1. Reward for the Christian preplanned and awaiting him. Saved now.
2. There now. John 14:1-3.

H. Crown: Symbol of position or achievement.

1. Regal crown - diadem. Gold & Jewels. King & queen kings & priests. ^{washed by} Rev. 1:6. his blood.
 2. Festival crown - not used here.
 3. Laurel wreath, the highest honor given to Olympic Champions. Withers in 3 days.
 4. Paul's crown for righteousness is eternal. Victorious over self, sin & Satan.
- ± John 3:8.

2. God offered His Son. John 3:16.
Jesus offered His life. John 10:17-18.
Paul offered ~~his~~ his lesser gifts: wealth,
scholarship, time, influence + total being
Now his life. Matt. 16:25. Rom. 12:1-2

C. DEPARTURE: Gr. Analysis - 4 Greek pictures
Note: Explains Paul's casual and calm approach to death. Just a short trip *meant journey*

1. Untying an open from plough at day's end.
2. Releasing a slave from his chains. Burdens.
3. Loosing the tent ropes. Breaking camp.
- * 4. Untying a ship as it begins its last voyage.

Death had no sting for Paul, only a sudden + welcome release. Took 4 minutes.

D. FOUGHT: Gr. AGON. Contest in the Arena.
Their 1. Pastime then were the Greek + Roman Games. Much like our track meets.
2. Competed to the fullest of his ability.
3. Victorious in efforts, performance and results. * I Tim. 6:11-15.

E. FINISHED: a race. Heb. 12:1-2.
1. Many have run in races but all have not finished. Many fall-outs! *II Tim. 2:21.*
2. With Christ, every finisher is a winner! I Cor. 9:24-27. * *Good pricing.*

F. KEPT: Double-meaning: athletic + spiritual.

↓ (over) to 3.

6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

*Safely, I admonish you
to I Cor. 11:1. !*